

# Marines barely leading Army

## 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Interservice Pistol Championships under way

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U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, Accessions Support Brigade

**FORT BENNING, Ga.** - After the first day of competition June 13 in the Interservice Pistol Championships, Marine Corps, Army, Reserves and National Guard are leading the pack.

Army Reserve Staff Sgt. James Henderson won the .22-Caliber Match, followed by Marine Gunnery Sgt. Brian Zins just two points behind in second place and Sgt. Keith A. Sanderson of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit and Marine Gunnery Sgt. Richard T. Gray three points behind Zins in third. Following close behind are Marine Reserve Sgt. Jason P. Hedrick, Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Jon Rosene, USAMU's Staff Sgt. Adam E. Sokolowski, Marine Sgt. Matthew H. Prykryl, Army Reserve Spc. Fritz Ficke and Pfc. Christopher J. Jones of the USAMU.

The Marine Corps Team took the .22-Caliber Team Match, just two points ahead of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Team. The All Guard Team, made up of Army and Air Force National Guard shooters, finished third.

Approximately 70 members of the military are competing here this week for the chance to win plaques and medals and for the bragging rights to call themselves the military's "Top Gun" during the 46<sup>th</sup> annual Interservice Pistol Championships.

Military personnel - Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Navy, Navy Reserve, Air National Guard, Marines, Marine Corps Reserves and even a Coast Guardsman - from across the country are competing in the matches.

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit is hosting the Interservice Pistol Championships through June 17 at Phillips and Parks ranges. The championships include competition with the .22- and .45-caliber pistols as well as center fire pistols and the M-9.

“We are a nation at war. Our expertise with issued small arms must be comprehensive, both as individual shooters and as collective instructors,” USAMU Commander Lt. Col. David J. Liwanag said. “This year we take the first step in developing and improving the overall proficiency of all Department of Defense pistol shooters with an introduction to the joint-service Armed Forces Skill at Arms Meeting combat match formats using standard issue service pistols and ammunition.”

The rest of the Interservice Pistol Championships schedule is as follows:

Today:

8 to 11 a.m. - Center Fire Individual Matches at Phillips Range.

1:30 to 3 p.m. - Center Fire Team Matches at Phillips Range.

June 15:

8 to 11 a.m. - .45-Caliber Individual Matches at Phillips Range.

1:30 to 3 p.m. - .45-Caliber Team Matches at Phillips Range.

3 p.m. - Excellence in Competition Match at Phillips Range.

June 16:

8 to 11 a.m. - Service Pistol Individual Matches at Phillips Range.

1:30 to 3 p.m. - Service Pistol Team Matches at Phillips Range.

June 17:

8 to 9:30 a.m. - Combat Pistol Classroom Training at Parks Range.

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Combat Pistol Individual Matches at Parks Range.

1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Combat Pistol Team Matches at Parks Range.

6 p.m. - Awards banquet at the Columbus Iron Works.

For more information on the Interservice Pistol Championships, contact Michael J. Behnke, USAMU chief of competitions, at (706) 545-7841 or [michael.behnke@usaac.army.mil](mailto:michael.behnke@usaac.army.mil). A copy of the Interservice Pistol Championship program/schedule is available on the USAMU website at [www.usamu.com](http://www.usamu.com).

Media are invited to cover the competition but should coordinate with the Public Affairs Office before coming to post. Call (706) 545-5436 or e-mail [paula.pagan@usarec.army.mil](mailto:paula.pagan@usarec.army.mil) [<mailto:paula.pagan@usarec.army.mil>](mailto:paula.pagan@usarec.army.mil) for more information.

*(Formed in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to raise the standards of marksmanship throughout the U.S. Army, the Army Marksmanship Unit is assigned to the Accessions Support Brigade of the U.S. Army Accessions Command. The Marksmanship Unit trains its Soldiers to win competitions and enhances combat readiness through train-the-trainer clinics, research and development. For more information on the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, contact the Public Affairs Office at (706) 545-5436, [paula.pagan@usaac.army.mil](mailto:paula.pagan@usaac.army.mil) or <http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/amu/>.)*